

Duluth Public Arts Commission

MINUTES for Monday, December 21st, 2020

4:30pm-6:00pm

Call Meeting to Order

Meeting started at 4:34pm

Additions to the Agenda

Woods would like to add implicit bias training to the agenda. Johnson had an announcement to make at the end of the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Present: Present: Bret Amundson, Jodi Broadwell, Philip Gilpin, Paula Gudmundson, Noah Hobbs

Amanda McElray Hunter, Sandy Johnson, Mary Tennis, Christina Woods

Absent: Melissa La Tour

Guest Speaker: Dr. Aubrey Paris, Innovation Station

Staff Present: Eleanor Bacso, Steven Robertson

Approval of the Minutes

The November meeting minutes were approved with minor corrections. Johnson moved to approve the minutes with a second from Gudmundson.

Amundson	Broadwell	Gilpin	Gudmundson	Hobbs	Johnson	Tennis	Woods
Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Abstain*

*Woods abstained because she did not have the minutes.

New Business

Dr. Aubrey Paris- Innovation Station

Dr. Aubrey Paris presented information on the State Department’s Innovation Station initiative and how it relates to creative storytelling and the arts. The State department was inspired by communities’ resiliency related to COVID-19. The department found that communities all around the world are sharing the similar challenges, not only related to COVID-19 but in many various disparities. The Innovation station is a platform aimed at connecting communities based on shared challenges and opportunities to learn from one another and develop. The State Department is looking to connect communities internationally and within the U.S. to create further economic, cultural and diplomatic opportunities.

The department also created a sub-initiative called the Creative Industry lab that intends to engage all types of creators (T.V., music, writing, etc.). This program will be launching in January in 2021. The pillars of this initiative are: access, community and exhibition. Dr. Paris encouraged DPAC to think of her as a collaborator and a resource. Gilpin stated this initiative has helped Catalyst with introductions with state

department contacts. Dr. Paris will send additional information as well as her contact information with the commission; she is also looking for collaborators get the word out about these initiatives.

McElray Hunter joined at 4:47p.m.

Tourism Tax Allocations & Funding Discussion- Eleanor Bacso

Bacso shared that DPAC will not receive tourism tax funding this year and wanted to hear commissioner's thoughts on alternative funding strategies. Woods stated that she would like to have it on record that there is a lot of concern that the City is not funding the Duluth Public Arts Commission. Tennis shared that there were grants that DPAC had applied for in the past. Woods stated that there is a grant called Our Towns and that she would bring information to the next meeting. Gilpin suggested that DPAC should begin having conversations with business groups in town to at least start the conversation regarding funding. Woods asked if we should have a subcommittee around this how to strategize regarding funding. The commissioners who are interested in this subcommittee are: Amundson, Woods, Gilpin, Tennis, Gudmundson.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Implicit Bias Training- Christina Woods

Woods spoke with Alicia Kozlowski in the Mayor's office regarding diversity, inclusion and equity training for all boards and commissions. Woods wanted to remind commissioners who are not dealing with micro-aggressions on a daily basis that we need to hold grace for one another. Gudmundson said if DPAC could have an individual training it would be much more beneficial for the group. Bacso will check in on the status regarding the training.

DPAC Pain Point Discussion-Mary Tennis

Tennis reviewed the big picture/brief overview of the special meeting pain point discussion DPAC had. Gudmundson said it would be helpful to put time frames on how and when these goals are to be completed. Gilpin said it would be helpful to have one of the previous applicants to help to give out pointers of where they ran into problem at the next meeting. Tennis will send out another Doodle poll to schedule the next pain point discussion.

Superior Street Subcommittee Update-Noah Hobbs

Hobbs shared that the subcommittee has been discussing the light display and would like to coordinate with the Greater Downtown Council. Commissioners asked if GDC would be involved in the selection committee and reiterated that DPAC would like to select the art. Kristi Stokes of the GDC is working to secure locations that we can offer artists.

Maintenance Subcommittee Update-Jodi Broadwell

Broadwell shared that the group met December 7th and they decided that next year's goal is to have 10 bronze pieces cleaned. Penny Perry has confirmed she can do the cleaning and waxing on all 10 pieces. The subcommittee is working on 4 other pieces that need repair and/or are in disrepair. Commissioners are assigned to each piece and will obtain quotes to bring back to the group.

African Heritage Mural & Chief Buffalo Mural Update- Eleanor Bacso

Bacso shared that the City and Minnesota Power continue to have conversations regarding the African Heritage mural. Commissioners would like the City to continue to have these conversations but have suggested other locations for the mural as well. There was not enough time to discuss the Chief Buffalo mural project.

Sandy Johnson Announcement

Sandy Johnson shared that she will be stepping off of the commission due to health concerns.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:02pm.